



Department of Justice

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MORE THAN 10,700 FUGITIVE ARRESTS BY NATIONALLY COORDINATED U.S. MARSHALS'
"OPERATION FALCON III"

***480 Wanted for Violent Crimes, Narcotics Offenses, Burglary and Other Crimes
Arrested in Local Sweep of Criminal Fugitives***

Detroit, Michigan – More than 10,700 fugitives, including 1,659 fugitive sex offenders, were arrested in a seven-day nationally coordinated fugitive roundup led by the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) and hundreds of partners from state, local and other federal agencies, U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and USMS Director John F. Clark announced today. Several hundred fugitives were arrested in Detroit and the surrounding suburbs, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan Stephen J. Murphy and U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan Robert Grubbs announced today.

United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy said, "Our communities benefit so much from actions like this, when we clamp down hard on those charged with serious violent crimes, drug offenses, and other serious criminal conduct, and round them up to be prosecuted. I salute the U.S. Marshal's Service and all of the hardworking officers and agents who made Operation Falcon III such a huge success by bringing so many fugitives to justice."

Nationally, Deputy U.S. Marshals and their law enforcement partners arrested 10,773 fugitives and cleared 13,333 felony warrants during the seven-day operation, including 3,609 for narcotics violations and 140 homicide warrants. Task force members also arrested 971 unregistered sex offenders and 364 documented gang members.

Locally, the operation cleared 480 warrants, including 43 for sex related crimes, 8 for homicides, 112 assaults, 133 for narcotics, 32 for weapons, 37 for robbery, 42 for burglary/larceny, 6 for arson, 1 for kidnaping, 10 for stolen vehicles, 13 for fraud and 43 on other miscellaneous crimes.

One such fugitive arrested is Abbas Habib Alfatlawi, who was wanted by Bernalillo County, New Mexico for Criminal Sexual Conduct First Degree, Criminal Sexual Conduct Third Degree and Intimidation of a Witness. According to the district attorney's office, Alfatlawi allegedly sexually assaulted and intimidated a twelve year old child in 2001. The U.S. Marshal led Detroit Fugitive Apprehension Team (DTAF) received information from New Mexico that Alfatlawi may be in the city of Detroit. DFAT members investigated, conducted surveillance, and confirmed an address on the west side of Detroit. DFAT members from the USMS, Michigan State Police, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Oakland County Sheriff's Office and the Sterling Heights Police Department made entry into the residence and executed the arrest of Alfatlawi without incident. He is awaiting extradition and possible deportation.

U.S. Marshal Robert Grubbs said, "This arrest is a shining example of the thousands of arrests made nationwide by dedicated law enforcement officers supporting FALCON III. It shows the good that can happen when the men and women of numerous law enforcement agencies at the federal, state and local levels come together in a common cause such as this. When we share information and pool our resources towards a common goal, the results are safer communities for our children and a more secure homeland."

In the Eastern District of Michigan the agencies that participated in FALCON III were the United States Marshals, Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Oakland County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, Sterling Heights Police Department, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Social Security Administration, Housing and Urban Development-Office of the Inspector General, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Drug Enforcement Administration, Detroit Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Operation FALCON III was conducted in 24 states east of the Mississippi River, in the District of Columbia and in Puerto Rico. Deputy Marshals teamed up with thousands of officers, deputies, troopers, agents and investigators from other federal, state and local agencies to conduct the Operation.

Operation FALCON III received a major boost from the Adam Walsh Act, named after the murdered son of *America Most Wanted* host John Walsh. The law directs federal resources to tasks of rounding up sexual predators and helping state and local governments catch convicted individuals who failed to register in communities where they live.

"Operation FALCON has once again proven how much we can accomplish with our network of federal, state, and local law enforcement," said Attorney General Gonzales. "This operation has made our nation's neighborhoods and children safer by taking off the streets some of the worst sex offenders, violent felons and gang members."

PHOTOS/VIDEOS AVAILABLE

The Marshals Service has photos of actual arrests during the operation available at www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3, as well as fact sheets on arrests nationwide and in each of the participating districts. Dossiers on the "FALCON 15," describing 15 of the most significant cases closed during the operation, are available at the site. A 10-minute B-roll video package for broadcasters will be available for satellite distribution on Nov. 2, at 2:00 – 2:15 P.M. EST (11:00 – 11:15 A.M. PST) and at 7:00 – 7:15 P.M. EST (4:00 – 4:15 pm PST) at C-Band coordinates (IA 6 T-11 Downlink Frequency 3920 V 93 degrees WL), and on Nov. 3, at 4:00 – 4:15 A.M. EST (1:00 – 1:15 A.M. PST) at C-Band coordinates (IA 6 T-17 Downlink Frequency 4040 V 93 degrees WL).

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

A complete list of all federal, state and local agencies that participated in Operation FALCON III is available at the USMS Web site, www.usmarshals.gov/falcon3.